

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Tuesday, April 12. 1709

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**I**N my last, I trac'd the Original and Progtels of *Exorbitant Power* in the World, and brought it down to the Present Times; it may not perhaps seem so unnecessary a Search, when you shall see what use I may make of it. —

I left this Monster in the Divided Courts of the *Austrian Family*, united in the pursuit of the same Design, *viz.* oppressing their Neighbours; I shall not enter far into the History of what they did, but shall be more particular in what *Europe* did to reduce them. — The King of *Spain* extended his Branch of Power to the invading *England*, the setting up the League in *France*, and the oppressing his Subjects in the *Netherlands*, in which had he succeeded, *Philip*

*II.* had been Master of the whole Monarchy of *Spain, England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Portugal and France*; and *Exorbitant Power* would have made fine Havock, indeed; had those Ends been answer'd — But he failed in them all, and like a strong Man, presuming upon his Strength, he sunk under the Weight, and is now become the Contempt of *Europe*. — On the other Hand, the *Emperor* fell upon his own Subjects of the Empire, ruin'd the *Electoral Palatine*, oppress'd the whole Circle of the *Lower Saxony*, engross'd the Kingdom of *Bohemia*, and bid fair for extirpating the Protestant Religion out of the whole Empire. — But he failed in that Attempt too, and in short, found his own Ruine in the

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the too violent Exercise of his Exorbitant Power.

Let us see with the same brevity, how all this came to pass; *Philip II.* of *Spain*, in his Attempts to support the House of *Guise* in *France*, called then by the Title of the *Holy League*, found a vigorous Enemy in *Henry IV.* of *France*, Grandfather of the Present King, who assisted by *England*, reduc'd the League several times to the last extremity, and had ruin'd them at the several Sieges of *Paris*, had not the Powerful Forces of the *Spaniards* supported them; but at last, the Great Duke *De Main*, finding that *Spain* aimed at the real Monarchy of *France*, he and the whole Party gradually gave over the War, and one by one made their Peace with the King of *Navarre*; *Spain* lost all her vast expences, a great many brave Troops, and was after a long War, reduc'd to a Necessity of seeing *France* Establish'd in the hand of her Enemy at the Peace of *Vervins*.

His Invasion of *England*, I need make no Mention of; how his Fleet miscarry'd in 1588; how the Expence of it broke him as to Wealth, costing him, as History informs us, in Ships, Provisions, Artillery, Arms, Magazines and Treasure, sent for carrying on the Expedition above 40 Millions of Pieces of Eight, and so reduc'd his Naval Power, as that he never became formidable at Sea more.

His other Attempt, was upon his own Subjects the *Flemings*, whom he not only sought to Oppress in the highest Degree, under the Cruelty and Tyranny of the Duke *D'Alva*, who imposed the 10th Penny, and who boasted of putting 18000 of the People to Death by the hand of the Hangman——But brought the Inquisition into that Country, where it had never before got any footing, and set to work by Violence, to extirpate the Protestant Religion out of those Provinces——The *Flemings*, driven one Part by the Oppression of their Liberty, another Part of their Property; and a third, tho' perhaps the least of their Religion, took Arms under the famous *William I.* the then Prince of *Orange*, and Founder of the Present *Dutch* Greatness——These Arms were pursu'd with

that Animosity on both Sides, with such Power the *Spaniards* push'd his Tyrannical Opposition, with such Obstinacy the Subjects defended their new assum'd Liberty, that this War continu'd 40 Year; the King of *Spain* himself declar'd, it cost him 368 Millions of Money; the loss of Blood may be guess'd at, since by a Journal I have by me of the Siege of *Ostend*, that one Town & of the *Spaniard* near 70000 Men, besides the loss within the Town——Add what was the End, but as it is like to be now, the Condemnation of *Exorbitant Power*? The *Dutch* broke quite off, and the *Spaniard* was obliged to acknowledge them a Free State, and the rest of the *Flemings*, who remained in their Duty, call'd now the *Spanish* *Netherlands*, obtain'd a Confirmation of their Priviledges, Banishment of Foreign Troops, total Expulsion of the Inquisition, and that no Taxes should be raised, but by the Consent and Grant of the States of the Country.

If all these Attempts ruin'd *Spain*, and weaken'd them to that Degree we now find them in, it is not to be wonder'd, for the protecting this Fury call'd *Exorbitant Power* has ruin'd every Nation, that in these latter Ages have attempted it, and will continue to do so to the End of the World, while the Powers of *Europe* have their Eyes open to Liberty and their own Interest.

And now we come to the Empire, the other Branch of *Austrian* Greatness——The Protestants of *Bohemia* fly to our *James I.* but he, guided by other Councils than those of his own Interest, and *Europe's* Peace, abandon'd himself and the Protestant Cause, and gave the greatest Blow to the Protestant Interest at that time in the World, that any *Papish* Power could have done by attacking it——*Bohemia* fell into the merciless Hands of the *Austrian*. the Protestants of the *Lower Saxony* were ruin'd, the Electors of *Saxony* and *Brandenburgh* frighted, the Dukes of *Pomerania* Deposed, the Princes of the House of *Meklenburgh* crush'd, and *Victorious Count Tilly* was ravaging the Protestant Country, to make the several Princes renounce the Conclusions of *Leipsick*.



In this Distress, the Great *Gustavus Adolphus* Lands at *Stralsund*, but with 12000 Men, falls into *Germany*, takes *Stettin* and all *Pomerania*, marches through *Brandenburgh*, whose Elector at first play'd Fast and Loose with him, joins the Duke of *Saxony*, and overthrows the whole Imperial Army, under old General *Tilly*; at the great Battle of *Leipsick*, where *Tilly* had the best Army perhaps that ever was beaten in the World, being all old Regiments, beaten to the War, flush'd with Victory, and just come from the terrible Siege and Sack of the City of *Magdenburgh*.

From this Victory, the *Swede* overrun two third Parts of *Germany*, and in less than a Year and three Quarters, extended his Conquest over the *Elb*, the *Oder*, the *Rhine*, and the *Danube* — Where-ever he came, *Exorbitant Power* did like a *Parthian* before a *Roman* — Always flying, tho' always fighting — Here Liberty reviv'd, and this War held on to the famous Treaty of *Munster*, viz. 1632, to 1648. when *Exorbitant Power* was cast out of the Empire, like the Devil our Saviour cast out of the Man's Sin in the Gospel, which threw him down and rent him at parting.

And now wise Men thought this Beast was gone out of the Country; *Turks* and *Tartars*, *Persians*, *Chinezes*, and such People might harbour her, and do what they pleased to one another; no Body concern'd themselves much about it, any farther than as they gave any umbrage to these Parts of the World, and threaten'd the Peace of *Europe*; when of a sudden, she began to show her Grisley Face again in *France*.

*France* had suffer'd so many Convulsions for a great many Ages before the Days of *Henry IV.* that no Part of the World was more unlikely to entertain this Fugitive —

The Civil Wars with the Protestants, under four Reigns, had Desolated many Parts of the Kingdom; the Holy League had let in the *Spaniard*, and the King of *Navarre* had craved Aid from *England* and *Holland*, and the whole Kingdom had been ravag'd with Foreign Troops, that when *Henry IV.* obtain'd his Crown, the Princes of *Lorraine* who formed the League, seem'd

to comply not as beaten, or as weary of their Cause, but as seeing no End of the War, and tyrd with the Desolation of their Country.

*Hen. IV.* Dying by Assassination, and with him the first Great Thoughts of Exorbitant Greatness: His Son an Infant, and at best, a weak and infirm Prince, utterly incapable of being any Terror to his Neighbours, had all his Reign taken up with Court-Factions and Party-Strife, between the Queen Mother, and the Princes of the Blood; *Katherine De Medicis* and the Cardinal employ'd the whole Politicks of that Country, tho' the Cardinal by his exquisite Conduct, laid much of the National Oeconomy, upon which the Management of *France* has ever since proceeded.

Some little Acquisitions this Prince made in *Italy*, and particularly the wheedling *Pignerol* out of the hands of the Duke of *Savoy*, which he rendred a most impregnable Fortrefs, and called it the Key of *Italy*: But his main Conquest was that of the Protestants, whose Power he effectually broke in the Reduction of the *Rochellers* — A Conquest, owing to the wretched Management of *English* and *Dutch* Protestants, who to the Shame of those Days, be it spoken, lent their Ships, to destroy their Brethren: Of which hereafter.

When the Present King of *France* came to the Crown, the very same Scene began to be acted over again; the King was left an Infant, but just out of his Cradle, *Mary de Medicis* acted exactly her Predecessor *Katherine*, and *Mazarine* possess'd the chief Ministry, as *Richlieu* had done before him, with this Difference, that now they had a Masculine, Vigorous, Fiery Prince to serve, who quickly made himself known to be their Master, and shew'd them their Business was to Obey, not to Instruct him how to Command.

Yet all this while, *Europe* saw no Danger of *French Power* growing Exorbitant, nor had *England* acted her Part, had it been ever so — But drowned in Luxury, secure and supine, *England* fell in with all her Measures; our Court was acted by *French Influence*; our Prince slept in the Arms of *French Strumpets*; was doz'd with

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the Arts of *French* Sycophants, Brib'd by the Power of *French* Pensions, and Debauch'd by the Plague of *French* Principles.

Under this miserable Circumstance, the King of *France* entertain'd the flattering Notions of Universal Monarchy, and as he was a Prince of a mighty Genius, full of Aspiring Thoughts, and form'd by Nature for Great Actions : He saw a great way into *Europe's* Destruction.

I shall enter farther in my Next, into the Degrees of this Encrease, the Steps by which *France* has thus made her self Great ; and this I think will lead us directly to examine, what is absolutely necessary, as well to its Present Reduction, as to the effectual securing *Europe* against the Present Mischief of Exorbitant Power, and all possibility of its return, either in *France*, *Germany*, or any where else ; and this I hope will make this long Story effectual to the Present Purpose.

#### ADVERTISEMENT.

To Mr. John Marten, Surgeon.

SIR,

**I**N your yesterday's Advertisement in the English-Post, you call us Profligate Wretches ; 'tis you Sir, not we, that Pag. 63 of your Treatise, tell the World of a Liquor (you pretend to have) to prevent the Venereal Disease ; that, you say, p. 62. will not fail once in a 1000 times, tho' p. 64. they enter the most infected Wb—s ! And if the Reader consults pag. 64, 68, 368, 379, of your Treatise, and p. 49 and 87, nay indeed, all your Appendix, he'll soon determine who is the Profligate Wretch, for he'll there find some of the Matters, that we in our Books, especially, in that call'd Quackery Unmask'd, have expos'd and complain'd of, as tending to the great Encouragement of Vice and Immorality ! His unjust Personal Reflections, in any of our Books we desye you to produce. You, (p. 250) call one Practitioner Villain, Rogue, &c. Another (p. 249) Quaking Quacking Doctor ; another (p. 192) Dr. Damnable ; the Courts Physicians you say, (p. 272) do none Service but themselves ! But we know better what belongs

to Learning, Civility, and Education, than to imitate you herein ! A Letter worded like that you caus'd to be Printed in yesterdays English Post. You have Publish'd in the Preface to your Appendix ; sent to you, you there say, concerning me J. Sintelear ; And if you treated that Gent. (as you call him) with Merc. Subl. Corros. (as you own p. 303, you do some) and he had the good Luck to escape with Life ; he might (in a just Passion) send you that, as a Second Letter. But we, the said John Sintelear, and John Spinke ; (each for our selves) positively declare, That we, nor either of us know any thing of the Matter ; we scorn such ridiculous proceedings ; what belongs to Men of Art, Learning, Good Manners, and Honesty, and nothing else, you may expect from us ; But we shall for bear an Affidavit ; presuming that a voluntary Affidavit in a Man's own behalf, is ridiculous ; and usually not believ'd. No Man's Name but your own (i. e. in your Title Page) is put to the pretended Letters printed in your Book, therefore according to the Oath (you say) you have taken, you must be the Author of them. The Certificate you handed to the Printers, proves that Mr. Stephen's translated some Passage or Passages ; (from the Beginning to the End is but one Passage) of Dr. Greenfield's Book, but does not prove, that you translated one Word thereof ! Quackery Unmask'd, proves that in Latin, you can't distinguish the Parts of Speech, the Singular from the Plural Number ; nor what Cases Prepositions govern ! If you shew Books and Advertisements on the World (for we presume you the Author of these published in the Name of N. Fitcherton, M. D.) where shall we suppose you'll stop ; If Interest prompts you on ? Your offer of 10 Guineas looks as if you were inviting Rewards of the P—st. We can only declare, we know nothing of this Letter ; And that we scorn to threaten, or do you any Injury ; and desye you to produce any one Passage in any of our Books, wherein we, or either of us have, or has, unjustly Reflected on you.

John Sintelear.  
John Spinke.